

FROM THE MAGAZINE RACK NO. 32  
JILL STRICKLAND

MAY 26, 1976

FROM THE UKRAINE TO MAINE (DOWN EAST)  
THE HOOD SARARITAN (FAMILY HEALTH)

ANNCR: HERE IS ----- WITH FROM THE MAGAZINE RACK, SUMMARIES OF ARTICLES ON TIMELY TOPICS FROM MAGAZINES PUBLISHED IN THE UNITED STATES. TODAY, A PROFILE OF A BOSTON CONVICT WHO IS SERVING OUT HIS SENTENCE BY SPENDING EIGHT HOURS A DAY HELPING PEOPLE, FROM FAMILY HEALTH; AND TO START WITH, THE STORY OF A UKRAINIAN FARMER WHO FOUND CONTENTMENT IN THE STATE OF MAINE, FROM DOWN EAST MAGAZINE.

NARR: THE NORTHEASTERN STATE OF MAINE IS SOMETIMES CONSIDERED THE LAND OF THE YANKEE -- THE WHITE ANGLO-SAXON PROTESTANT NEW ENGLANDER WHOSE WAY OF LIFE DOES INDEED DOMINATE THE STATE. BUT MAINE IS ALSO THE HOME OF MANY OTHER ETHNIC GROUPS. ONE SMALL TOWN, RICHMOND, HAS BEEN A HAVEN FOR UKRAINIAN IMMIGRANTS SINCE 1952. TAMARRA KAIDA KNAPP, THE DAUGHTER OF ONE OF THESE IMMIGRANTS, TELLS HER FATHER'S STORY IN DOWN EAST MAGAZINE:

VOICE: "MY FATHER, IVAN IVANOVICH KAIDA, IS A NATURAL-BORN FARMER  
(FEMALE) WHO CONSIDERS THE TWENTY-TWO YEARS HE SPENT WORKING IN A FACTORY -- ON A MACHINE WHICH MADE PARTS FOR OTHER MACHINES -- 'WORSE THAN A PRISON SENTENCE.' UPON RETIREMENT THREE YEARS AGO, HE AND MY MOTHER LEFT THEIR LIFE IN URBAN NEW JERSEY AND MOVED TO RICHMOND, MAINE, WHERE THEY STARTED ALL OVER AS FARMERS.

VOICE: "ACTUALLY THEY WEREN'T STARTING OVER, BUT RETURNING TO  
(CONT'D) A WAY OF LIFE THEY HAD KNOWN IN PRE-REVOLUTIONARY RUSSIA.  
MY FATHER GREW UP ON HIS FAMILY'S ESTATE IN THE WHEATLAND  
REGION OF THE UKRAINE. BY THE TIME HE WAS TEN YEARS OLD,  
HIS FATHER HAD GIVEN HIM CHARGE OF A LARGE FLOCK OF SHEEP;  
HE ALSO WORKED IN THE FIELDS WITH OTHER PEASANTS AND  
FARMERS. 'I HAVE NEVER BEEN AFRAID OF GETTING MY HANDS  
DIRTY OR OF WORKING HARD,' HE HAS TOLD ME MANY TIMES."

NARR: AFTER THE RUSSIAN REVOLUTION, TAMARRA KNAPP RECOUNTS, HER  
FATHER'S FAMILY LOST ITS LAND. HE MOVED TO THE CITY OF  
ROSTOV WHERE HE WORKED IN VARIOUS STORES AND FACTORIES.  
DURING THE SECOND WORLD WAR, HE WAS CAPTURED BY THE NAZIS,  
BUT ESCAPED AND MADE HIS WAY TO ITALY, WHERE HE MET HIS  
FUTURE WIFE, ALSO A UKRAINIAN PRISONER. BOTH ESCAPED TO  
AUSTRIA, WHERE THEY SPENT FIVE POSTWAR YEARS IN A DISPLACED-  
PERSONS CAMP BEFORE SAILING FOR NEW YORK CITY IN 1950.  
"LIKE MANY OTHER IMMIGRANTS," MRS. KNAPP WRITES, "MY  
PARENTS TOOK JOBS IN FACTORIES WHERE WORK WAS READILY  
AVAILABLE. IN PATERSON, NEW JERSEY, THEY LIVED FRUGALLY,  
EVENTUALLY BOUGHT A HOUSE WITH THEIR SAVINGS, AND ADJUSTED  
AS BEST THEY COULD TO THEIR ADOPTED LAND." BUT THE  
ADJUSTMENT WAS NOT EASY. ACCORDING TO TAMARRA KNAPP, HER  
FATHER NEVER FORGOT HIS CHILDHOOD ON A FARM.

VOICE: "MY FATHER TRIED TO SATISFY HIS FARMING INSTINCTS BY  
RAISING PIGEONS AND BANTAM HENS IN OUR SMALL BACKYARD.  
IN HIS SPARE MOMENTS HE DESIGNED AND BUILT WHIMSICAL  
CHICKEN COOPS. AS HIS COLLECTION OF JAPANESE AND EGYPTIAN

VOICE:  
(CONT'D)

PIGEONS, GUINEA HENS AND BANTAMS GREW, SO DID THE COMPLAINTS OF NEIGHBORS WHO DIDN'T APPRECIATE THE CACKLING OF HIS MENAGERIE. THE DAY WE SPENT SCOURING THE NEIGHBORHOOD FOR RUNAWAY CHICKENS, AFTER AN IRATE (ANGRY) NEIGHBOR OPENED THEIR CAGES, WAS TYPICAL OF THE FRUSTRATING TIMES WE EXPERIENCED IN THE CITY. MY PARENTS BEGAN TO THINK SERIOUSLY ABOUT MOVING TO THE COUNTRY."

HARR:

MRS. KNAPP RELATES THAT ABOUT THIS TIME, THE KAIDA FAMILY RECEIVED A LETTER FROM FRIENDS WHO LIVED IN MAINE. "'COME TO RICHMOND,' IT READ. 'HERE YOU CAN FARM AND LIVE AMONG FRIENDS.'" NOT LONG AFTERWARD, THEY MADE A TWO-WEEK VISIT TO THE TOWN AND WERE REUNITED WITH MANY FRIENDS THEY HAD NOT SEEN SINCE THE WAR. THEY LEARNED THAT WHITE RUSSIAN IMMIGRANTS HAD BEGUN SETTLING IN RICHMOND SINCE 1952, WHEN A UKRAINIAN NAMED VLADIMIR KHUN VON POUSHENTAL BOUGHT A NUMBER OF FARMS AND BEGAN ADVERTISING THEM FOR SALE IN UKRAINIAN-LANGUAGE NEWSPAPERS THROUGHOUT THE UNITED STATES. THE KAIDAS WERE SOON CONVINCED THAT THEY WOULD BE HAPPY IN RICHMOND, AND THEY BOUGHT A SMALL HOUSE ON THREE ACRES (1.2 HECTARES) OF LAND. IVAN KAIDA PLUNGED INTO FARMING WITH GREAT FERVOR. ACCORDING TO HIS DAUGHTER:

VOICE:  
(FEMALE)

"HE CONSTRUCTED SMALL SHEDS FROM USED LUMBER, PUT UP FENCES AND CORRALS AND, WITHIN A YEAR, HAD ADDED SIX SHEEP, FIVE GOATS, TWO PIGS, EIGHTEEN RABBITS, TWENTY-FOUR DUCKS, AND THREE TURKEYS TO HIS ORIGINAL CHICKEN AND PIGEON

VOICE:  
(CONT'D)

COLLECTION. TODAY, THOUGH THEIR FARM IS SMALL, IT AFFORDS THEIR DIGNITY AND SELF-SUFFICIENCY.

"MY MOTHER IS ENORMOUSLY PROUD OF HER GARDEN. BY AUGUST, IT IS BURSTING WITH QUANTITIES OF CABBAGES, CORN, TOMATOES, SQUASH AND OTHER PRODUCE WHICH SUPPLY THEM AND THEIR LIVESTOCK WITH MOST OF THEIR WINTER FOOD. 'I WORK HARD IN THE SUMMER,' SAYS MY MOTHER, LOOKING UP FROM THE WEEDING, 'BUT PAPA HE NEVER STOPS WORKING.' INDEED, SHE NEVER STOPS EITHER, FOR SHE WORKS AS AN ASSEMBLER IN A SMALL ELECTRICAL FACTORY IN RICHMOND, KEEPS A SPOTLESSLY CLEAN HOUSE, AND CANS OR FREEZES THEIR VEGETABLES."

HARR: TAJARRA KNAPP SAYS HER PARENTS ARE NOT VERY DIFFERENT FROM THEIR NEIGHBORS IN RICHMOND, MOST OF WHOM ARE UKRAINIANS AND POULTRY FARMERS. SHE REPORTS THAT "RELATIONS BETWEEN THE WHITE RUSSIAN COMMUNITY AND MAINE NATIVES ARE CONGENIAL DESPITE THEIR OBVIOUSLY DIFFERENT BACKGROUNDS." THE TWO GROUPS SHARE A COMMON "INDEPENDENCE OF SPIRIT, A LOVE AND KNOWLEDGE OF THE LAND, AND THE ABILITY TO ACCEPT AND ENDURE THE HARDSHIPS OF LIFE IN A DEMANDING CLIMATE," MRS. KNAPP WRITES. THE UKRAINIAN COMMUNITY IN RICHMOND CONTINUES TO CELEBRATE EASTER, THE MOST IMPORTANT TRADITIONAL HOLIDAY, WITH THE SPECIAL FOODS THEY ONCE COOKED ON THE OTHER SIDE OF THE WORLD. TAJARRA KNAPP GIVES US THIS FINAL GLIMPSE OF HER FATHER:



VOICE: "THIS PAST EASTER, AFTER OFFERING PRAYERS AND GRATITUDE  
(FEMALE) TO GOD FOR ALL THE HELP THEY HAD RECEIVED IN THEIR  
FARMING VENTURE, MY FATHER RAISED HIS WINE GLASS AND  
SAID, 'FIRST I WAS A MAN WITHOUT A COUNTRY, THEN I WAS  
A MAN WITHOUT LAND. NOW I AM TRULY RICH, FOR I HAVE  
BOTH!'"

\* \* \*

NARR: IT IS RUSH HOUR ON THE CITY OF BOSTON'S SOUTHEAST  
AUTO EXPRESSWAY. TWO POLICEMEN SIT HELPLESSLY IN THEIR  
CAR, IMMOBILIZED BY A LATE-WINTER SNOWSTORM. A FEW MINUTES  
AGO, THEY LEFT THEIR CAR TO HELP A STRANDED MOTORIST, AND  
RETURNED TO FIND THEIR WINDSHIELD WIPERS FROZEN IN  
PLACE. WITHOUT VISIBILITY, THEY CAN GO NOWHERE. BUT HELP  
IS ON THE WAY -- FROM AN UNLIKELY SOURCE. DICK RUSSELL  
AND DAVID NEVARD, WRITING IN FAMILY HEALTH MAGAZINE, TELL  
WHAT HAPPENED:

VOICE: "SUDDENLY, A MILK-TRUCK-SHAPED VEHICLE WITH A BRIGHT  
YELLOW FLASHER ON THE ROOF PULLED IN BEHIND THE POLICE  
CAR. THE DRIVER'S DOOR OPENED AND OUT JUMPED A TALL,  
THIN MAN DRESSED IN A MILKMAN'S UNIFORM. HE DIDN'T  
SAY A WORD BUT QUICKLY WENT ABOUT THE JOB AT HAND.

"WITHIN MINUTES, HE HAD CLEANED THE WINDSHIELD AND DUG  
AWAY THE ICE FROM AROUND THE WIPER BLADES. THEN, AS  
THE STUNNED OFFICERS GAVE A SLIGHT NOD OF APPRECIATION,  
THE STRANGER WAS GONE IN THE MAROON-COLORED TRUCK

VOICE: WITH THE WORDS 'HOOD SAMARITAN... HELPING PEOPLE'  
(CONT'D) ENGLAZONED ON THE SIDE."

NARR: THE AUTHORS EXPLAIN THAT BILL WALLACE, THE HOOD SAMARITAN, IS A CONVICT SERVING A SIX-TO-TEN-YEAR SENTENCE FOR ARMED ROBBERY -- AND THE FIRST PRISONER TO PARTICIPATE IN A UNIQUE PROGRAM SPONSORED BY BOSTON'S HOOD DAIRY PRODUCTS FIRM. BILL'S JOB IS TO DRIVE UP AND DOWN BOSTON STREETS "LOOKING FOR PEOPLE IN TROUBLE AND HELPING THEM OUT." ACCORDING TO RUSSELL AND NEVARD, "WALLACE IS, IN FACT, A MODERN-DAY VERSION OF THE GOOD SAMARITAN, THE MAN IN THE BIBLICAL STORY WHO CAME TO THE AID OF A TRAVELER WHO HAD BEEN ROBBED AND LEFT TO DIE BY THE ROADSIDE. IT WAS THE SAMARITAN WHO ASSISTED THE HELPLESS VICTIM, AFTER ALL THE RESPECTABLE PEOPLE HAD PASSED HIM BY." AND THEY CONTINUE:

VOICE: "WALLACE BEGINS HIS WORKING DAY EARLY. BEFORE DAWN HE EASES HIS NEW HOOD MILK TRUCK FROM THE PARKING LOT OF THE MASSACHUSETTS CORRECTIONAL INSTITUTE (PRISON) AT SHIRLEY AND BEGINS THE 60-MILE (72-KILOMETER) DRIVE INTO BOSTON. SOON, TRAFFIC WILL CLOG THE MAIN ARTERIES LEADING INTO THE CITY AND THE 'HOOD SAMARITAN' WILL BE ON THE RADIO-TELEPHONE TO THE HOVERING HELICOPTER OF WJZ RADIO'S JOE GREEN, SEARCHING OUT THE TROUBLE SPOTS. IT'S ALMOST 6 A.M. WHEN WALLACE SPOTS A STALLED VOLKSWAGEN AND PULLS OVER TO INVESTIGATE. A SIMPLE PROBLEM: THE MAN IS OUT OF GAS. REACHING INTO THE BACK OF THE VAN,

VOICE: BILL FINDS A RED FIVE-GALLON (18-LITER) GAS CAN. THE  
(CONT'D) COMMUTER'S FACE LIGHTS UP WITH SURPRISE.

"'HOW, THANKS, BUDDY. HOW MUCH DO I OWE YOU FOR THAT?'  
HE ASKS, REACHING FOR HIS WALLET.

"'OH, NOTHING,' REPLIES THE HOOD SAMARITAN. 'THIS IS  
MY JOB. IF YOU WANT TO THANK SOMEBODY, CALL THE NUMBER  
ON THIS CARD -- THE HOOD MILK COMPANY.'"

HARR: BILL WALLACE TOLD THE TWO FAMILY HEALTH REPORTERS THAT  
THE PEOPLE HE HELPS OFTEN TRY TO PAY HIM. WHAT THEY  
DON'T REALIZE IS HOW MUCH THE JOB ALREADY PAYS HIM --  
NOT ONLY IN TERMS OF THE SALARY HE RECEIVES FROM THE  
HOOD MILK COMPANY, BUT MUCH MORE IMPORTANTLY, IN TERMS  
OF THE NEW SELF-RESPECT AND OPTIMISM HE FEELS SINCE  
HE BEGAN HIS NEW CAREER OF HELPING PEOPLE. RUSSELL AND  
NEVARD EXPLAIN THAT WORK-RELEASE PROGRAMS ARE NOT  
UNUSUAL IN MASSACHUSETTS PRISONS. SOME FOURTEEN PER  
CENT OF THE STATE'S PRISON POPULATION "EITHER WORKS OR  
GOES TO SCHOOL OUTSIDE THE CEMENT WALLS." BUT ALTHOUGH  
BILL WALLACE WAS ELIGIBLE FOR SUCH A PROGRAM, HE  
COULDN'T FIND A JOB. BUT TOM MCCAIN, A BOSTON PUBLIC  
RELATIONS SPECIALIST WHO HAD HELPED A GROUP OF PRISONERS  
TO STAGE A PLAY IN WHICH BILL WALLACE HELD A STARRING  
ROLE, INVITED ONE OF HIS PUBLIC RELATIONS CLIENTS, JACK  
FOX OF THE HOOD MILK COMPANY, TO VIEW THE PERFORMANCE.  
AFTERWARDS, MISTER FOX MET BILL WALLACE AMONG OTHER  
INMATES, AND MR. MCCAIN SUGGEST THE "HOOD SAMARITAN"

HARR:  
(CONT'D)

IDEA. HIS CLIENT LIKED THE IDEA. ACCORDING TO RUSSELL AND NEVARD, "THE HOOD COMPANY BUDGETED ALMOST TWENTY THOUSAND DOLLARS TO OUTFIT THE VEHICLE NECESSARY FOR THE JOB, AND AGREED TO PAY THE SALARY OF THE DRIVER." BILL WALLACE, WHO HAD SPENT EIGHT OF THE PREVIOUS ELEVEN YEARS BEHIND PRISON BARS IN SEVERAL DIFFERENT STATES, WAS LAUNCHED ON A NEW LIFE OF HELPING PEOPLE RATHER THAN ROBBING THEM.

BILL WALLACE DOES MORE THAN HELP MOTORISTS STALLED IN TRAFFIC. HE DRIVES A GROUP OF VIETNAMESE REFUGEES TO THE STORE FOR GROCERIES ONCE A WEEK, AND HE OFTEN HELPS BLIND PEOPLE ACROSS THE STREET OR CARRIES GROCERY BAGS FOR OLDER PEOPLE. HE OFTEN TALKS AND PLAYS BASKETBALL WITH YOUNGSTERS WHO LIVE IN POOR NEIGHBORHOODS, AND HE IS NOW IN THE PROCESS OF COMPLETING AN 84-HOUR EMERGENCY MEDICAL TECHNICIAN COURSE, SO THAT HE WILL BE ABLE TO GIVE FIRST AID TO ACCIDENT VICTIMS. RUSSELL AND NEVARD REPORT THAT BILL MAY BE ONLY THE FIRST OF MANY PRISONERS WHO WILL SOMEDAY BECOME HOOD SAMARITANS:

VOICE: "TOM MCCANN, FOR ONE, THINKS THE PROGRAM IS ONLY BEGINNING. 'THERE'S NO REASON WHY THERE CAN'T BE HOOD SAMARITANS ALL OVER THE COUNTRY,' HE SAYS. 'WE'RE ALREADY TALKING ABOUT THE IDEA SPREADING TO OTHER COMPANIES AND OTHER REGIONS. WHEN A 'HOOD' (HOODLUM) OR AN EX-HOOD SPENDS NINE MONTHS OF HIS TIME DRIVING AROUND HELPING PEOPLE, IT'S COULD TO HAVE A LASTING EFFECT ON HIS LIFE."

NARR: BILL WALLACE COULDN'T AGREE MORE. HE TRIED TO EXPLAIN HIS FEELINGS TO THE TWO REPORTERS IN THESE WORDS:

VOICE: "WHEN I GOT OUT (OF PRISON!) BEFORE, I ALWAYS FELT LIKE LIFE HAD STOLEN SOMETHING FROM ME, AND THAT I HAD TO MAKE UP FOR WHAT I'D LOST. BUT FINALLY YOU FIND OUT THAT THERE'S NO SENSE WASTING MORE TIME TRYING TO GET SOMETHING BACK. BECAUSE IF YOU DO, YOU DON'T ENJOY WHAT YOU'RE DOING -- AND WHAT YOU'VE GOT AHEAD OF YOU."

\* \* \*

ANNCR: YOU'VE BEEN LISTENING TO FROM THE MAGAZINE RACK, SUMMARIES OF ARTICLES ON TIMELY TOPICS FROM AMERICAN MAGAZINES. YOU HEARD TODAY: THE STORY OF HOW A UKRAINIAN FARMER FOUND CONTENTMENT IN THE SMALL TOWN OF RICHMOND, MAINE, FROM DOWN EAST MAGAZINE; AND A PROFILE OF A MASSACHUSETTS CONVICT WHO IS SERVING OUT HIS PRISON SENTENCE BY SPENDING EIGHT HOURS A DAY HELPING PEOPLE, FROM FAMILY HEALTH. NEXT WEEK (AT THIS TIME), JOIN US AGAIN FOR MORE SELECTIONS FROM THE MAGAZINE RACK. YOUR REPORTER WAS -----.

-0-

WJL/RCS/CAK/PY